



**Morrow County  
Long-Range Planning  
1971**

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Bob Jepsen, general chairman, Morrow County Long Range Planning Report, is viewing an excellent example of a grass waterway on his wheat farm.—SCS photo

# Morrow County Long Range Planning 1971

## Foreword

Long range planning is a tradition in Morrow County. Citizens have met periodically about every 10 years since the 1920's to prepare a report which points out long range and short range goals for the county.

During the winter of 1970 approximately 200 people met on 15 different committees and prepared a report on a wide variety of subjects.

This planning was sponsored and organized by the Morrow County Extension Advisory Council and the Morrow County Extension Service of Oregon State University.

### MEMBERS OF THE MORROW COUNTY EXTENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bob Jepsen, Chairman	Francine Evans
Dick McElligott	Donna Bergstrom
Jean Nelson	Dorris Graves
Ken Turner	Louis Carlson
Katherine Lindstrom	Ned Clark
Pete Richards	

### MORROW COUNTY COURT

Paul Jones—Judge  
Walter Hayes—Commissioner  
Homer Hughes—Commissioner

### MORROW COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

Harold E. Kerr—County Extension Agent  
Gail L. McCarty—County Extension Agent,  
resigned July 1, 1971  
Don E. Stangel—County Extension Agent,  
employed July 15, 1971  
Birdine Tullis—Extension Aide

## HISTORY

Morrow County was split off from Umatilla County by the Oregon legislature on February 16, 1885. The name came from an early resident—J. L. Morrow.

Cattle raising was the first industry and still is very important to the county's economy.

The Oregon Trail passed across the north end of the county and is still very visible in a number of locations.

## AREA DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The county seat of Morrow County, Heppner, is located almost in the exact center of the county.

The 2,065 square miles which comprises Morrow County is located in north-central Oregon with the Columbia River on the north; Umatilla County on the east; Gilliam County on the west and Wheeler and Grant Counties on the south.

The topography ranges from a level low-lying desert floor along the Columbia River where irrigation development is taking place at a rapid rate, to rolling hills which are the summer-fallow wheat land area of the county to the Blue Mountains in the south. The highest elevation in the county is near 6,000 feet above sea level and this drops to less than 300 feet above sea level at the Columbia River.

The climate is semi-arid in nature with rainfall levels from 7 to 20 inches.

Rainfall generally follows elevation and increases as elevation increases.

The soils are generally deep and well suited to crop production. Wind and water erosion pose serious threats, but can be controlled with proper soil management.

## POPULATION

The population of Morrow County is 4,465 according to the 1970 census.

The population centers are in Heppner (1429); Boardman (192); Ione (355); Irrigon (261); and Lexington (230).

The population has declined 8.3 percent in the past 10 years. Recent agricultural growth due to irrigation should result in a reversal of the population trend.

# Recreation Report

The recreation potential for Morrow County has not been fully realized. Big game hunting for both deer and elk is the leading source of recreation income and provides the most hours of leisure-time activity for residents of the county.

Hunting upland game birds is also a popular sport for both local people and out-of-county visitors. The committee suggests that the Game Commission stock upland game birds.

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities for recreation on the Columbia River have not been developed to their potential. Water skiing, fishing, and pleasure boating all could be further developed. There are a number of additional water impoundments which can and should be developed in the county.

Other additional recreation opportunities which can be promoted in the county include rock hunting, snow skiing, and trail hiking, among others.

## SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Morrow County has a varied and rich background. The museum should be expanded and promoted to attract interested people. The committee suggests that a historical society be organized.

The members of the Willow Creek Country Club are commended for maintaining a golf course within Morrow County. This nonprofit organization is a great asset to the beauty, recreation, and tourism in the county. It is a very important factor in attracting not only tourists, but especially school teachers, ministers, and business people.

The public schools are given use of the golf course for physical education classes and for golf training and practice for the high-school golf team. It is also available for the high-school golf tournaments with other schools. Therefore, the committee recommends that more people in Morrow County be encouraged to support the Willow Creek Country Club with their membership and that they help maintain this beautiful asset to Morrow County in every way possible. The Morrow County Court could cooperate with the club by making available its heavy earth-moving equipment when needed for ground improvement projects.

The Arbuckle Ski Area is located in the Umatilla National Forest approximately 27 miles southeast of Heppner. Although the area is small, it is well known to skiers in the Pacific Northwest and receives recognition in many ski publications. The ski area and the ski school conducted there each winter are a valuable addition to the recreation available to our young people and also to many adults. The Arbuckle Ski Area might well be enlarged to include the Happy Home area that is now already included under the Special Use permit from the

United States Forest Service. Two items are needed to improve this area: improved tow facilities and better accommodations for skiers.

Some private enterprise should be encouraged to take over and operate the ski area and make these improvements. If this is not possible, it is strongly recommended that the people of Morrow County and the Morrow County Court assume the responsibility of getting adequate ski accommodations and maintain them at Arbuckle.

The committee urges that the United States Forest Service, which issues the Special Use permit to Arbuckle, be more realistic with their rules and control over the Arbuckle Ski Area.

## Recommendations

◆ The United States Forest Service should improve the road signs and boundary signs for the national forest. All roads should be identified by name as well as number.

◆ Buffer zones or unthinned areas should be left along roads and within logged and thinning projects to provide cover and escape routes for wildlife. These areas should be designed by agreement between the Oregon State Game Commission and appropriate forest agencies or industries.

◆ The area between Cutsforth Park and Johnson Creek should be designated by the United States Forest Service as a recreation area and left in natural state. Hiking trails should be established near the existing parks and recreational areas.

◆ An arrangement should be worked out by the United States Forest Service, the Oregon State Game Commission, the Morrow County Court, and the City of Heppner to handle the disposal and collection of garbage from the recreational areas.

◆ The development of additional water impoundments on both public and private lands, whenever feasible, should be encouraged.

◆ The Morrow County Court should request additional special-use permit land from the United States Forest Service adjacent to Cutsforth Park for additional trails, park, and camper-site development.

◆ The Army Corp of Engineers should proceed with the recreational development plan for the Columbia River frontage area. Both dock and camping facilities are needed at the present time.

◆ The public waterfowl hunting areas as designated should be developed along the Columbia River.

◆ Local businesses serving those engaged in recreation should be encouraged to stay open longer hours and on weekends to provide adequate service and facilities for the public during high-use periods, such as the big-game hunting season.

◆ The Oregon State Game Commission should be encouraged to continue investigating the possibility of introducing new species of wildlife in the area.

◆ A new brochure should be printed and made avail-

able by the Chamber of Commerce. The one in existence is excellent, but should be updated to include recent developments in the county.

◆ The Morrow County Extension Service should conduct an educational program to develop better relationships between landowners and hunters.

◆ A Morrow County search and rescue organization should be initiated and maintained.

◆ Roadside parks or rest areas should be developed by

the Morrow County Park-Recreation Committee on Sandhollow on Highway 207 and on Lower Willow Creek on Highway 74 and on the Bombing Range Road.

◆ A historical marker should be erected on the old Oregon Trail to preserve and identify it for future generations. This should be done on at least two sites in the county. A turnout at the Bombing Range Road, so people can stop and see the trail, is needed. This is a logical place for a rest stop.



Morrow County Judge Paul Jones and Marcel Jones, partners in a wheat and cattle ranch, discuss with County Agent Harold Kerr the advantages of a diversion ditch (background) in controlling water runoff and preventing soil erosion.—SCS photo

# Public Affairs Report

## PLANNING AND ZONING

A comprehensive plan is being studied at the present time by the Morrow County Planning Commission. In this plan is a proposal for a zoning ordinance for Morrow County.

The purpose of the ordinance is to encourage the orderly growth of the county; to promote appropriate uses of the land; to conserve and stabilize the value of property; to aid in the rendering of fire and police protection; to provide adequate light and air; to lessen congestion; to prevent undue concentration of population; to facilitate adequate provisions for community facilities such as water supply and sewage; to protect and enhance the appearance of the countryside; and in general to promote the public health, safety, convenience, and general welfare of the residents of the county.

The basic provision of this ordinance will be the classification of the county into four zones: farm, farm-residential, commercial, and industrial. To these four basic zones the ordinance will be adapted.

We recommend that the county planning commission be especially concerned with the problems in the areas of small-town zoning, sewer-disposal systems, and solid-waste disposal systems and areas.

The Public Affairs committee would like to commend the planning commission for its excellent work towards zoning the county and to recommend that the Long Range Planning committee endorse this worthwhile project.

## NUCLEAR SITING WITH COOLANT-WATER IRRIGATION

In this 10-year plan it is the wish of the committee that the development promotion, bonding, building, and sanction of Morrow County people for nuclear plant siting be made a major and prominent project for the following reasons:

- ◆ Jobs would be provided for our expanded crop of young people so that they could enjoy Morrow County livability.
- ◆ The economic value of the privately owned plant would redistribute our property-tax burden and help greatly with our educational programs.
- ◆ The 500,000 GPM of coolant water from the steam generator condensers from a one-cell plant would irrigate over 100,000 acres of Morrow County land, and this could be multiplied by cluster siting.
- ◆ Other multiple benefits resulting from irrigation from the coolant water can be ground water and reservoir recharge, fallow-land recharge, recreation, fish and wildlife, city water supply, industrial water supply, city heating, frost prevention, ground heating, greenhouse heating, and many others.
- ◆ Diversification of crops can be attained by our ranchers for better marketing as well as the possibility of mov-

ing away from surplus commodities.

◆ If the land is irrigated by a Port of Morrow self-liquidating bonding program, the ranchers' land will not be encumbered, and no acreage limitation would apply.

◆ Large supplies of electric power for agriculture and industry and jobs for young people should greatly enhance Morrow County's economic growth and value.

◆ Environmentally, no other source of energy, heat, and power can be produced so cleanly.

◆ Economically, no other known project could be as valuable to Morrow County ranchers as nuclear siting with coolant water irrigation.

◆ Resource development by utilizing our fair share of Columbia River water, first to cool a 1000 Mw nuclear power plant, then to irrigate 100,000 acres of arid land provides an ideal multiple use of natural resources and greatly expedites our land irrigation timing.

The Public Affairs committee commends the Port of Morrow for their work and encourages Morrow County citizens to support the Port in their continued effort to improve the economy of the county.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Morrow County has continued to upgrade its general law enforcement throughout the county. The Morrow County sheriff's office provides one full-time deputy and has additional persons deputized throughout the county. The sheriff's office also provides a marine patrol which is well equipped for the Columbia River. The sheriff's office has cooperated with the Civil Defense Agency and its successors to establish a system of communications throughout the county. These facilities have been used in mountain search and rescue work.

The City of Heppner and the county cooperate closely in providing local jail facilities. Studies are underway to incorporate a juvenile detention hall into the present jail. The City of Heppner uses the county jail, and the city dispatcher operates out of the county sheriff's office to provide basic 24-hour communications.

The Oregon State Police provide a resident game officer in the county; the police are also available for assistance whenever requested by local law enforcement officials.

The committee recommends that continued studies be made of the juvenile detention facilities and future requirements for adult and juvenile detention.

## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Highway 80-N, a four-lane freeway, provides more than adequate transportation for east-west traffic. It also provides a nucleus for better highways in Morrow County. Highway 74, which connects at 80-N near the mouth of Willow Creek, has only 4½ miles of highway in Morrow County, built to federal specifications. The other 40 miles should be improved to make it suitable for

rapid transportation. As a secondary highway, it needs a major overhaul to conform to standards suitable for long-haul trucks and busses.

Highway 207, like Highway 74, provides transportation to the interior of Morrow County; it also needs improvements. The highway is a key link in supplying the southern part of the county and needs a better roadbed to haul wheat and cattle to market.

The committee recommends that the Forest Service be encouraged to build the Great Western route, an all-weather road, and to improve the Willow Creek road for easier access to recreational areas. The western-route road should have a buffer zone of trees and foliage.

Also, the committee recommends continued tax levies to assure paved roads to all farms.

Another major problem is providing adequate roads for access to irrigated lands. This problem is on the county level and a solution should be pursued.

The committee further believes that the county court should look to the feasibility of road improvements in the event abandonment of the bombing range and the reestablishment of old roads in the area.

## ECOLOGY

Morrow County in its remoteness has long enjoyed the benefits of rural living. The problems faced by communities in Morrow County have been much different from those confronted by the larger cities of the state and the nation. Damage to the environment in which people live has become one of the most pressing and growing problems faced by cities where population and industrial growth is concentrated today.

Although Morrow County has not had any major reasons to be concerned with environmental control in the past, it is relatively safe to assume that within the next decade this will no longer be the case. The committee offers the following reasons to support this conclusion:

- ◆ The increase of deep-well irrigation on present farmlands, allowing increased and diversified farming
- ◆ The probability of tens of thousands of acres of desert rangelands being placed under irrigation on what is known as the Boeing and Navy Bombing Range.
- ◆ The increasing use and need for weed sprays, insecticides, and fertilizers.
- ◆ The possible siting of nuclear power plants in Morrow County.
- ◆ The likelihood that processing plants and other industry will grow as an outcome of further development of farmlands.
- ◆ Population increase due to varied and growing land

use in agriculture, recreation, mountain retreats, and the exodus of people from urban areas to the "wide open spaces."

◆ The probability of increased raising of livestock in the county and more commercial feed lots, as a result of any major agricultural development.

◆ Increasing federal and state guidelines and controls on air pollution and waste disposal.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends that:

◆ Morrow County begin to take all measures possible to control and prevent damage to the environment of the county.

◆ Regulations and controls be established to curb and check air pollution, pollution of water ways, noise pollution, pollution of the land, and the unnecessary marring and cluttering of the country side.

◆ Means be devised to insure the safe application and handling of all types of insecticides, weed sprays, and fertilizers used in large doses, such as in agriculture.

◆ Cities of Morrow County without sewage-treatment plants investigate all possible ways to build and finance a proper sewage-treatment system.

◆ The county, as far as possible, control the location and general operation of any commercial feed lots that might come into the county.

◆ The county government continue in its efforts and strive to carry out work on more efficient and useful ways to dispose of solid waste materials; that plans be studied for establishing a sanitary land-fill project through a joint and concerted effort of the cities and county.

◆ All local government agencies take positive action to clean up their communities; that the municipalities adopt an ordinance to handle this problem on privately owned property.

◆ The cities of the county take more pride in their community, and individuals be encouraged to clean up their properties.

At the present time it appears Morrow County may be on the brink of considerable population and economic growth compared to the past and present. Let us grow in a healthy manner, being aware and diligent in recognizing and handling ecological problems. Let us improve what we have and grow to new and better things and at the same time protect the environment in which we live and work.

Let us at all cost not sacrifice the good we have in a clean environment for the sole purpose of economic gains. Let us have both!



# Public Education Report

Plans for the future of education in Morrow County for the next 10 years must of course include a consideration of goals and the needs of children and adults. Because society is swiftly changing, the present educational system must be evaluated for its projected effectiveness in the years to come. As our society evolves, so must education in order to achieve any relevancy at all in the future.

Previous philosophies have stressed college preparation and have ignored the student who is not college-bound. Therefore, a top priority for the future educational program of our school system is a guidance-counseling program for each student, and his parents, aimed at discovering the student's own potential. Of course, this is a futile effort unless opportunities in education are provided in Morrow County for realizing the student's abilities. This is a complex problem, but it is necessary and urgent that the individual be educated to his fullest capabilities. The challenge must be faced now.

The State Board of Education sets forth a group of five broad objectives for instruction of related priorities as follows: (1) Assure that each young person can read, write, and compute to the best of his ability during the primary grades. (2) Expand and strengthen services and learning experiences available to children and youth who are economically or culturally disadvantaged to assure them equal access to all educational opportunities. (3) Develop students who possess a desire for and can exhibit competence in personal and group responsibility in the critical areas of education, politics, and civic affairs, business and economics, civil rights, international relations, and environmental ecology; help students acquire moral values which will enable them to function effectively in independent and cooperative activities. (4) Make available to 11th and 12th graders in Oregon a career education program based on the occupational clusters concept; assure that broad diverse opportunities are available for students to enroll in specific occupational training programs in Oregon's community colleges and approved private vocational schools; provide occupational guidance services to all students, and exploratory occupational programs, grades 7 through 10. (5) Make available to each student a planned program under school supervision with completion of a full secondary program by each student as the goal; determine the feasibility of a 12-month school; study the applicability of the compulsory school attendance law; and review current high school graduation requirements in terms of their effectiveness in meeting individual students needs.

The areas of concern chosen by this committee for intensive study were: drug education; school buildings; curriculum; guidance and counseling services; special education; kindergarten; health and physical education; educational television; Blue Mountain Community College; scholarships; Morrow County Extension Service; public use of school buildings; and effective communication between educators and tax payers.

## DRUG EDUCATION

Everyone is aware of the increased use of drugs in our society and the growth of abuse and dependency. Many agencies are working on the problem of drug use and abuse. Guides are available for educators, parents, and young people. Organizations are interested and studying the problem and attempts are being made to help the drug abuser. Multi-media centers list films and audio-visual materials that are available.

Anyone who is dependent on any drug for any purpose not determined necessary by a physician is a drug abuser, and any chemical compound which alters the metabolism of cells and tissues in the body is a drug.

Dangerous drugs are not necessarily narcotics. Medicinal drugs such as barbituates (sedatives), amphetamines (stimulants), legal over-the-counter drugs, and products such as glue can be harmful if misused.

No class of society, economic or social, is immune. The wealthy and the poverty-stricken, the educated and uneducated, professional and lay people are counted among the addicts. Factors include the pressures of slums, frustrations, family disorganization, purposeless lives, inability to cope with reality, and a rapidly changing society. Individuals react to drugs in different ways, and special attention must be given to each one. Some professional people closely connected with the sale and use of drugs become involved in the course of their work, as do other workers.

Realizing the need for comprehensive education about drugs, the Oregon Legislature in 1969 appropriated funds for the preparation and implementation of a drug-education handbook to serve as a guide for schools. The material was developed for students in kindergarten through grade 12 by a committee appointed by the State Department of Education; it is of a developmental nature. In grades K-6 beneficial use and effects of drugs are stressed. In grades 7 through 10 the misuse and abuse of drugs and the hazards to individuals and society are stressed. In grades 11 through 14 the emphasis is on social implications of drug usage and the cost in human lives and suffering. The importance of developing constructive attitudes and values and in making wise decisions is emphasized. An in-service program for participating teachers on the use of the handbook and other education materials and resource media will be an essential part in the planning session.

The community must do its part, too. Since there are many varying ideas and attitudes about drugs, local needs and interests must play a part in drug education. Not only the schools, but resource people such as physicians, pharmacists, law enforcement personnel, community agencies working with young people and adults, churches, and other organizations must take an active part. Parents and the home are of prime importance. Drug education can be successful only if it helps people develop sound attitudes and values to govern their lives.

The committee recommends that there be more education on drugs. Also, people must become actively involved in the drug problem and support organizations and law officials who are trying to solve this problem. There is no easy solution and no one answer that will fit everyone's needs. Careful and continuous research is needed to understand the complex drug problem, but an attempt should be made.

## BUILDING PROGRAM

Morrow County has some very fine new structures, but some very old buildings are being used in the school program. These need to be extensively remodeled or replaced with completely new buildings, or additions should be made to newer existing school buildings.

The A. C. Houghton school is using, by special permission of the state fire marshal, the basement and main floor of the old school built in 1921. The furnace, boys' and girls' dressing rooms, kindergarten, and art room are housed in the basement. Two classrooms and the gym are on the main floor of this structure. These rooms need to be replaced by an addition to the new building, which was constructed in 1952, with additions in 1962. If this is not feasible, some extensive remodeling should be done to the old building.

Ione Elementary School is now occupying a building and gymnasium, which has been in use since 1924, with a totally inadequate heating system and extremely poor plumbing and wiring. There is also an acoustical problem throughout the building. With the exception of the gymnasium, the whole facility should probably be replaced in the near future or expensive and quite extensive remodeling done.

Heppner Junior High building, constructed in 1915, was remodeled in 1960 and is structurally sound and large enough to handle present enrollment. However, there is still some repair work and remodeling to be done, which would make the building usable for some time to come. The gym-auditorium at the junior high was built in 1927 and had some remodeling done in 1969-70. More remodeling will be needed in the future if the building continues to be used.

The shop program in both Ione and Heppner high schools is hampered due to lack of space and facilities. It has been suggested that these shops be enlarged or that one shop be built at Lexington for the use of both schools.

The committee recommends that school patrons be made aware of these school-building problems and that a committee of school and community members review the situation and establish a building priority program on a long-range basis with a goal of constructing or remodeling buildings to fulfill the needed requirements of the schools involved and to the satisfaction of the Oregon Board of Education and the state fire marshal.

## CURRICULUM

Apparently the schools of the county are, in general, providing an academic program for students. The committee recommends to the district board the addition of a

foreign language and fine arts program at Riverside and Ione high schools. Also, a "career cluster" program for all should be seriously studied. This would mean teaching a cluster of occupations composed of recognized job titles which are logically related because they include identical or similar teachable skills.

Since only one in 10 high-school students graduate from college, students must be exposed to a broad field of interests, thus forming a background for further specific training at either the college, community college, or military or industrial level. Each student will then, it is hoped, realize his fullest potential and ability. A further recommendation to the Oregon Board of Higher Education is that preservice and inservice training of career-education teachers must be expanded and improved immediately to meet the demands of the new emphasis on career education.

## GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES

A complete guidance program should provide the following essential services: orientation; individual inventory and analysis; scholarship and vocational information; counseling (including selection of colleges and vocations); assistance in placement; and followup on post-graduates and dropouts.

In order to provide adequately the service listed above, it is desirable to have counseling services available in all grades. Guidance programs in the elementary school should assist the pupil to develop a harmonious and integrated personality through carefully planned school experiences which will assist in later development and selections.

Beginning in grade seven much more emphasis must be placed on vocational counseling. Projections indicate that more jobs will be available for skilled labor than for white-collar workers in the future. Such projections call for a retooling in counseling and curricular goals. They must become more vocationally oriented. New files must be developed that will provide all types of information on job availability, job requirements, and private and public vocational training schools. These should be additions to and not replacements of present offerings.

Present academic counseling programs need some strengthening. Efforts should be made to provide a trained counselor for the Ione schools and to expand counseling into the elementary schools. These programs should cover academic counseling, vocational counseling, group counseling, and individual counseling.

A better service of information on scholarships and grants-in-aid should be available, and an effort be made to conduct an orderly follow-up on graduates and dropouts. Counseling services should also be made available to postgraduates and dropouts.

To assist counselors in vocational counseling, the school district should immediately move to group the present subject offerings into career clusters. The district should also provide that a regional study be conducted to see what curriculum additions should be made to meet present vocational needs.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

In some or all areas of the county, the graduating students and parents are not aware of all available scholarships. Various efforts are exerted within each school to make known the availability of such scholarships, but not all students and parents take advantage of these sources. The committee felt that the lack of an assimilation of scholarship material and the possibility that the materials are not presented early enough in a student's high-school career may be an unfavorable influence.

A county-wide brochure should be developed listing all scholarships and information about applying for scholarships. This brochure should have a section for each community, showing those aids available only to that area.

Most scholarships are only for students showing high scholastic ability. It is recognized that students entering vocational-technical schools have very little local assistance to help them financially.

Therefore, this committee recommends and encourages that groups or individuals offering student aid or intending to offer aid give consideration to the needs of the students planning careers in the vocational-technical field.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

The immediate needs in the elementary schools are in the areas of remedial reading, special education of slow learners and the mentally retarded, providing for the gifted child, and counseling.

## REMEDIAL READING

The school district retains a full-time remedial reading teacher at Heppner Elementary, but no such program is available at the other schools. The district does provide, through Federal Title I funds, a very limited reading program at both Ione and Riverside Junior high schools. At A. C. Houghton the librarian also gives some limited time to assist in the teaching of reading. The committee recommends that the remedial reading program throughout the county be expanded to provide sufficient time for all students who need the help.

## SLOW LEARNERS

Special education classes for the slow learner and the educable mentally retarded students are nonexistent in Morrow County schools. Students who are slow learners are being sent to the special education classes in Hermiston from the Irrigon-Boardman area. This is cheaper than providing a program for them in the local area.

A study is presently being made in the area of special education for the educable retarded child. If the study indicates a sufficient number of students to justify a special education program in the county, the committee would recommend applying for state funds to assist in the operation of the program.

With the ever-increasing need in this county for the

training of the mentally retarded, this committee recommends that a Morrow County chapter of the Association for Mentally Retarded Children be organized by interested professional and lay people. This group could investigate the feasibility of a center for training in this county or of joining forces with a neighboring county. Even a training center in connection with or on the campus at Blue Mountain Community College might be seriously considered.

## GIFTED CHILDREN

A great deal of time, money, and words are devoted to the help of the educationally handicapped child, but another minority group of students in our schools are being shortchanged—the gifted children. And perhaps in the gifted child lies the resource or the ability to become the leader of tomorrow, the inventor, the poet, the composer. Unless properly challenged, these talented youngsters often become the dropouts, social problems, discipline problems, etc. In the next 10 years we should encourage the stimulation of these gifted children in whatever area their particular talent lies.

Literacy classes, high-school completion courses, and other adult education classes should be encouraged, especially in the areas of skills in hobbies for the productive use of leisure time. The Neighborhood Center is commended for its efforts, and its projects should certainly be continued.

Further, local educators are urged to appeal to the State Department of Education for more college Extension courses offered in the local areas.

## KINDERGARTEN

Much interest has been exhibited by parents of pre-school children in a tax-supported kindergarten instead of the burden of the expense each year borne by the parents of the current class. It is recommended that the state legislators consider making kindergarten a part of the formal education of the child throughout the state. However, due to the general economy of the state at this time, the committee does not feel this should have the highest priority now.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Because education in this technological world is a continuing process for young people and adults alike, Blue Mountain Community College is to be commended upon the fine growth the institution has made and the needs it is fulfilling for the people in the two-county area. The committee recommends that the school continue to broaden the courses offered in adult education and high-school equivalency classes. The people of the county should be encouraged to take full advantage of these classes and request any others that might be of interest to them.

It is further recommended that the State Board of Higher Education insure that courses listed as college-

transfer credits are immediately acceptable at all four-year state colleges and universities.

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The recommendation from the committee on physical health and education is as follows: The State Department of Education guides need to be followed more closely, programs throughout the county must be as uniform as possible, new health texts should be adopted, and the physical-education programs should be evaluated.

Free play at recess time is not a substitute for regular organized physical education instruction, and our elementary schools should provide instruction in basic skills and developmental programs in addition to competitive sports should have an opportunity to have physical education classes for self-improvement and recreation. Physical education should be incorporated in music, home economics, social studies, drama activities, and in the arts of communication.

The health instruction program in our schools should stress (grades 1 through 12) personal hygiene, structure and functioning of the human body (which would necessarily encompass some sex education at appropriate age levels in existing classes and not in a separate class labeled "Sex Education"), community sanitation and ecology, communicable diseases, mental health, safety education, basic first aid, physiological effects of exercise, and the effects of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, and other drugs upon the body and the mind.

Playground equipment and gymnasium equipment should be periodically checked for safety, and additional adequate playground facilities provided. Unsafe equipment should be removed.

The use of the county health department and its services in the community should be encouraged. More clinics and testing programs should be available to children and adults. Adult physical fitness programs could be provided by additional use of the facilities in the building after school hours. Present fees seem to discourage rather than encourage use of the gyms for basketball and volleyball.

## EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

The school district should keep abreast of the positive contributions of television to education: (1) by utilizing all programs, whether on commercial or educational channels, which afford profitable experiences for students; (2) by actively encouraging the role of television in the resources offered by the Intermediate Education District; and (3) by utilizing video tape to improve teaching methods, to tape in-school instruction for rebroadcasting on community cable systems, and taping community and environmental activities (business in action; school board meetings, councils, and court sessions, for instance) so as to enrich instruction.

Possibilities of instruction in such areas as art, music, sciences, higher mathematics, and languages to implement

or replace instructors through the use of telephone communication simultaneously with viewing, from a master teacher reaching to several schools, should be studied.

## MORROW COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

The Extension Service is commended for the able programs which have been implemented and carried out for the further education of the citizens of Morrow County. It is hoped that the service will continue to provide programs of assistance and training for our young people in leadership, citizenship, and agriculture and homemaking projects; also, that training and leadership will continue for adults of the county with a professional and lay committee advising about material and programs offered. Continued education in the use of foods, especially new foods on the market and surplus foods furnished by the government for use of those on welfare, is suggested.

## PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The committee found that any local community group is urged to make use of the school facilities when the use does not conflict with school purposes and/or school activities. The request should be made through the school administrator to the local advisory committee. A suggested list of groups who may use the buildings without charge are: Scouts; 4-H clubs; meetings of the County Court; PTA; state, county, and national elections; and Home Extension meetings. Guidelines have been drawn for the use of school facilities, and a nominal fee for other groups is listed. Members of the community should become acquainted with the rules, and use the buildings as needed.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

The committee recommends better public relations with and education of school personnel in regard to the economy of Morrow County as well as a knowledge of the farming and small businesses of the community. Members of the community, service clubs, and other appropriate groups should make an effort to contact new school personnel individually to welcome them and to encourage their active participation in the life of the community.

News of textbook revision committees, national assemblies, special projects, new equipment, school club activities, and other social activities should be publicized for the information of the community.

School visitations should be encouraged at all times. Notice of advisory board meetings and school board meetings should always be published.

Also recommended is that one person at the county level be assigned to coordinate the public-relations program and to publish news and pictures of activities in addition to the usual sports write-ups.

# Public Health Report

## GENERAL MEDICAL CARE

The health committee for Morrow County's long-range planning believes the number one problem facing the people of Morrow County is the making of our present hospital into a medical center to take care of not only this county, but the adjoining counties without medical centers which use our hospital. Since the Pioneer Memorial Hospital was established, it has treated more than 22,000 patients. Only families that have needed hospital care during a crisis can appreciate fully the service rendered by the present hospital.

The hospital should be modernized with the latest equipment and some improvements should be made that will facilitate administering to medical needs. The nursing home should be enlarged and modernized. After all, everyone is a candidate for either the hospital or for nursing-home care. A nation is judged partly by the care it offers its elders. The privilege of living in Morrow County can be enhanced by proceeding at the earliest date possible with the improvement of the county's medical facilities.

The need for additional doctors to serve the community and use the facilities of the local hospital is most critical.

The federal government is encouraging rural communities to develop medical centers and is offering financial help.

The community, through the hospital, service clubs, religious organizations, etc., should give first priority to medical centers in short-and long-range health-planning programs. Doctors are needed now.

Health care for welfare patients must undergo drastic changes to pay its own way. Nursing homes are not able to operate with the present rate. They are operating at a loss and cannot continue to do so. If the federal and state governments do not close the gap, the county will have to plan to subsidize these losses.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

The Morrow County Health Department expects no sweeping changes unless a decided increase in population occurs. Its present staff is part-time, consisting of the health officer, a registered nurse, and a secretary. In addition, services of an Oregon Board of Health district engineer and sanitarian are available from Pendleton. Help on a consultive basis is also available from specialized departments of the Oregon State Board of Health.

It is expected that the local programs as now followed will be continued. These include medical investigations by the health officer, programs in the control of tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, and services to the schools and preschool and adult population. Screening programs in hearing conservation are now carried out in cooperation with the State Board of Health. Follow-up of referrals from the mass screening programs, such as

the Diabetes Detection clinics sponsored recently by the local Extension units, is the responsibility of the health office in conjunction with cooperating physicians.

County-wide immunization clinics against communicable diseases are held yearly in each school, as well as specialized measles and rubella vaccine clinics which have been held in times when epidemics have threatened.

The information and referral services to such facilities as the Crippled Childrens Division and outpatient clinics of the University of Oregon Medical School are expected to continue. The health department also cooperates with voluntary organizations such as the Oregon Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association, the March of Dimes National Foundation, and similar health service groups, as well as the various official agencies, such as the welfare department.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health services which are felt to be needed in addition to the services now provided by the Umatilla-Morrow County Mental Health Clinic, were discussed by a committee meeting of interested local citizens. Some felt that there is a need for more service to Morrow County. Provision for a full-time counselor for the county school system is felt to be a priority. The counselor would be a mental health social worker for full-time use in Morrow County, one who has full liason with the personnel of the Umatilla-Morrow County Mental Health Clinic, such as the psychiatrist and psychologist, but assigned to Morrow County alone. If this person could, in the future, work from the schools, particularly in the 6 to 14 age range, including preschoolers, and family counseling for parents of these children, many potential mental health problems might be avoided or alleviated. Perhaps the services of the psychiatrist in the clinics will need to be expanded in future years. Programs for the mentally retarded, such as a sheltered workshop, could perhaps be worked out cooperatively with another county.

Some provisions for care and treatment of the alcoholic seems needed rather than just the admission to the Eastern Oregon Hospital and Training Center for a "drying-out" period before being returned to the community. The recognition of alcoholism as a disease is a forward step for the State of Oregon, and eventually the State Mental Health Division will surely have concrete suggestions to offer in helping with this problem.

There may be some need for additional counseling in connection with the juvenile court, as well as some provision for foster homes for short-time care of youth.

An application to the National Institute of Mental Health for a staffing grant for provision of a comprehensive system of mental health services is now being prepared by interested persons in the mental health field. This would include the catchment area of the eastern Oregon region, of which Morrow County is a part. If ap-

proved, it may also bring some changes and additions to mental health services in our county in the future.

## **GARBAGE DISPOSAL**

Another problem facing the county is the establishing of at least three land-fill garbage disposal sites to

take care of solid waste. Because of distance and the large area served, both urban and rural, the committee suggests one site be located in the north end of the county, one site in the Ione-Lexington area, and one in the Heppner area. The county and cities should cooperate in establishing this service.

# Human Resources Report

In evaluating the changes in Morrow County in the last ten years and looking ahead for the next decade, we found similar situations and problems but in varying degrees. However, in a world that is making changes rapidly we begin to realize that our human resources are the key factor to progress.

With crowded conditions in our metropolitan and urban areas, there is greater awareness of advantages of living in a rural community. We in the rural areas must become more conscious of this and plan ahead carefully in order to protect our rural heritage. One of the greatest advantages of living in a rural area is the opportunity to develop more initiative since we must be more self-sufficient. Evidence of this has been seen in the leadership capabilities of our young people with rural backgrounds.

There is a good possibility that in the next ten years there will be an influx of people with different interests and desires. Morrow County people must be ready for changes that seem inevitable. Reactions towards change vary greatly. There are those who resist any change and would cling to the "good old days". Others realize that we cannot stand still. We must go forward or we will surely slide backwards. This is the spirit in which we of the long range planning committee evaluated our situation and made recommendations.

The Human Resources committee focused attention on the people in the county and the services available to make their lives satisfying, fulfilling and rewarding. Problems in the areas of family stability, youth, senior adults, nutrition, housing, consumer competence and job opportunities were selected as those of most concern.

Morrow County's 4,465 inhabitants enjoy a mild dry climate and an opportunity to live close to nature in the wide open country. About sixty percent of the people live in the towns of Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Boardman and Irrigon. Less than 40 percent of the inhabitants live on approximately three hundred farms which grossed twelve million dollars in 1970 according to the Morrow County Extension Service.

Although the overall population figure has remained quite stable for the last 10 years, there has been a significant change in its composition. There has been a 20 percent loss in the 25 to 45 year age group and about a 25 percent increase in the 55 to 64 year age group. This poses a problem in increasing the responsibilities for the middle group since such a high percentage of our youth are leaving the county. This indicates a need for greater job opportunities for young people and the importance of emphasizing the advantages of raising families in a rural community.

## Housing Report

Protection from the weather and the security of a place to call "home" is essential for human welfare. At the beginning of the 1970's American society sees these homes ranging from the brush arbor of a "hippie" commune to a luxurious highrise apartment building. Right now the possibility of the former existing in Morrow County in the next decade is greater than the erection of the latter.

Lacking a planned land-use program previous to the 1970's, the county's housing performance runs from an unrestricted "anything goes" in most of the county, to the well-defined development of Boardman.

Since the census reports of the 1970's will not be at hand for several months, an up-to-date statistical reference is not available, and to use 1960 figures is unedifying, this committee will not present tables or graphs on Morrow's housing other than the following example furnished by the county assessor:

In 1970 the village of Heppner contained 452 single-family dwellings. Of these, 329 were classified in good condition and 123 in poor condition. The few multiple-dwelling units were classified in good condition.

Ione, Lexington, and the rural areas followed approximately the same pattern as Heppner. Irrigon's homes were somewhat below the average of those in other communities, and Boardman's homes, since they are in a

newly developing area, averaged better in physical condition.

In late 1970, Morrow County's houses were almost fully occupied and could handle only a very small population increase. The small size and low quality of many rentals and the poor quality of some owner-occupied houses severely limits the attractiveness of the county to incoming employees, particularly those of the professional group. Housing for the elderly poor and low-income family contributes a problem since these people are compelled by lack of finances to live in more adequate buildings.

### LIMITATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Home building for rental offers a poor return on an investor's capital investment.
- ❖ Some tenants cannot afford to pay rent at a rate that allows for maintenance, depreciation, and a reasonable profit to the landlord.
- ❖ A family desiring to build or improve a house finds it nonconducive because construction costs are very high; capital is difficult to acquire; improvements mean additional taxes, insurance, and other costs; and mobility of employment may mean financial loss in selling a home when one moves away.

◆ Utilities and public services are incomplete. Water is of poor quality in some areas; water is expensive to acquire in some locations; proper sewage disposal creates extensive problems; natural gas is not yet available, and solid waste disposal is inadequate throughout the area.

◆ Building codes and zoning regulations tend to be too restrictive in certain locations and not restrictive enough in others.

◆ New housing is discouraged by the isolation of the area, scarcity of employment, and the lack of community services and cultural resources.

◆ In a general way, the county's housing contributes little to one's aesthetic sense. Architecture and landscape do not present an attractive picture, and ecological debasement by refuse and untidiness gives the county's visitors and possible homeseekers a poor impression of the inhabitants.

## Recommendations

A dozen years ago Morrow County's citizens could have divided themselves into two philosophies as to the future. One group would have wanted the area to remain the same, maintaining a quiet, rural existence; the other group would have worked toward improving the economic potential, enhancing the social attributes, and increasing the population of the area. These choices seem outdated for the 1970's. Change will come whether it is wanted or not, bringing with it not only economic and cultural advantages, but greater problems as well.

Industrialization and irrigation can cause a huge increase of population near the Columbia River. Recreational development may transform the Blue Mountain

area at the south end of the county into a paroxysm of leisure activity. Involved in these changes will be an expansion of roads, utility systems, schools, and dwellings.

◆ Building codes and zoning controls be set up to make living conditions adequate, reasonable in cost, orderly in appearance, and not wasteful of land. Such regulations should be practical and open to the acceptance of new materials and methods of architecture, public services, and community beautification.

◆ Federal government-sponsored low-cost housing for the elderly and low-income families be instituted to answer their needs.

◆ The present taxation system on buildings and improvements be completely revised so as not to penalize the homeowner and renter who improves his real property.

◆ Attention be given to the needs of the following family types in construction planning: The couple with several children who require a dwelling with three or four bedrooms; the middle-income retired person who needs an apartment style or single-dwelling unit; vacationers, both of ordinary and more affluent means who require temporary occupancy housing or trailer space; and the incapacitated elderly to whom nursing and retirement homes should be available.

◆ Planning prepares the way for the location and regulation of modular homes and sites throughout the county.

◆ All new housing be properly adjusted to preserving the ecology of nature and to serving the human values of security, livability, cultural aspirations, and spiritual blessings.

## Employment

Because of a decline in net family income and the subsequent decline in population in the county, the need for additional jobs was the major concern of the committee on job opportunities.

**LABOR.** A need exists in the county for domestic help, such as housekeeping, baby sitting, and gardening. Home visitors are needed for the elderly and the shut-ins to get groceries, other supplies and mail, and to furnish transportation to doctors, to make telephone calls and perform various other services.

The committee recommends the establishment of a training program for unskilled and semiskilled people, such as the RISE program (Reach Independence Through Self Employment) or similar federally funded assistance.

**CLEARING HOUSE FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.** The committee recommends that a clearing house be established in an appropriate place, such as the Neighborhood Center for the south end. This could also be used as a communication center for summer youth employment.

**PUBLIC FUNDS AND AGENCIES.** More public understanding of available funds for assistance to disadvantaged and low-income families is necessary. Public agencies are urged to keep abreast of the needs within the county and to take appropriate action.

**COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.** Often a need arises for mean-

ingful work experience for people with leisure time who wish to supplement their income. Homemakers could participate in "cottage industries", such as home knitting, sewing, and crafts. Assistance in marketing the products could be given through use of retired personnel and the Neighborhood Center.

**THE MENTALLY RETARDED.** The committee recommends that an investigation be made of public funds available for sheltered workshops for the mentally retarded.

**RAW PRODUCTS.** Raw products produced in Morrow County, i.e., chips and sawdust, grain, livestock, and irrigated crops should be processed within the area when feasible.

**WILLOW CREEK AND RHEA CREEK DAMS.** These dams, because of their job and recreational potential, should be encouraged.

**RECREATION.** Existing businesses might well benefit by gearing for recreational potential by stocking sports equipment, furnishing overnight trailer and camping facilities, and extending service hours during sporting seasons.

**RETIREMENT HOMES.** Retirement homes are really needed in Morrow County. Besides fulfilling this need, they would provide jobs for skilled and semiskilled people.

**LOCAL INDUSTRY.** All groups should work together and investigate the possibilities of using the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Volunteers for Interna-



tional Technical Assistance (VITA), and government grants for the development of small local industry.

**COORDINATION OF AGENCIES.** The committee believes that more could be accomplished in the development of the county if all agencies worked together to plan (the Port Commission, the County Court, the Heppner Industrial Development Corporation, city govern-

ments, the Chamber of Commerce, and other civic organizations).

**PORT COMMISSION PROSPECTS.** The committee commends the Port Commission for a fine presentation of the industrial potential of Morrow County and also recommends that more information be prepared on the potential of the south end of the county.

## Food and Nutrition

The level of healthful nutrition of the population has been declining. The lowest level seems to be among teenagers, especially teenage girls. Therefore, a survey was conducted among the freshmen and sophomores in Morrow County to determine their nutritional level. An Oregon Dairy Council meal rating chart was adapted and distributed to them, with the basic four food groups being used as the basis for the Oregon Dairy Council guide. The results were as follows:

### 119 FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORE STUDENTS SURVEYED

Possible score - 105

Average county score - 54

60 females . . . . average score - 46

59 males . . . . average score - 60

According to this survey, Morrow County young people rated poorly, especially in the consumption of *milk, fruits, and vegetables*. It is felt that there is adequate nutritional information given to the students and that poverty is not a major problem. On the contrary, the survey indicated that the young people have the finances available to purchase "empty-calorie" snack foods, such as carbonated beverages, candies, snack crackers, etc., which detract from their desire to eat balanced meals. It is felt that the matter of good nutrition rests primarily with the meals served and food habits in the home.

### Recommendations

◆ The problem of poor nutrition needs more study and discussion at the following levels: educators of young people in health, home economics, and the sciences; low-

income homemakers; average family group members; and older adults.

◆ For education to be effective enough to change habits, it will have to be highly graphic. A suggested method is the use of rat labs. Teenagers involved in appropriate classes would feed their rats what they themselves eat; the results would then be recorded and displayed in the school and to the public.

◆ People are being told they should eat well-balanced meals, but not enough stress is placed on specific reasons. Such information could be used in an Extension newsletter, in study groups, in local newspapers, and on TV (for example, in improved advertising during children's programs or in educational programs such as Sesame Street).

Emphasis could be placed on good family nutrition to prevent future degenerative diseases such as heart disease, dental disorders, diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure leading to strokes.

◆ Senior adult nutrition problems include unbalanced meals due to inconvenience and the psychological effects of living alone; the effects of inflation on food selection; and transportation limitations.

The committee recommends that a senior adults' newsletter, patterned after the Extension young homemakers' letter be implemented, possibly through the Extension Service or another existing government program, such as nutrition aid. The letter would include planned menus, recipes for one or two on a limited budget, and health tips.

◆ Families encouraged to make mealtime a family affair. A good breakfast is very important.

## Youth

The members of this committee recognize the problems facing the youth of today and feel the welfare of our youth is one of greatest responsibility.

Recommendations to be made in this report were the result of a survey and discussion with high-school youth. The survey was given to students, grades 7 through 12 in Morrow County. Money management, alcohol, and drugs were subjects covered.

The enrollment in Morrow County grades 4 through 12 was 822 students for 1970. Of these students, 379 were enrolled in 4-H, with 88 leaders. These figures show the highest percentage of enrollment for many years because of the active role of the Morrow County Extension office.

Fifty percent of the youth in the county are being reached by local churches. School activities involve 81 percent of the students, grades 7 through 12. Some of the youth are not involved in organized activities. Morrow County residents should be encouraged to make a greater effort to reach these uninvolved young people.

### RECREATION

Because there are definite recreational needs in the county, the committee offers the following recommendations:

◆ A movie theatre in the south end of the county. A

service organization or private individual could sponsor this project.

◆ The completion of the park and boat marina in the Columbia River frontage area of the county by the Corp of Engineers.

◆ The use of school facilities, mainly gyms, for youth, activities to be supervised by interested parents and service groups.

◆ An increase in the sponsorship of girls' clubs, ages 6 through 12, such as Blue Birds, Girl Scouts, etc., by women's organizations.

## EMPLOYMENT

Although jobs are available in the county, a need exists for better coordination of these jobs. Community bulletin boards should be distributed throughout the county for posting available jobs, as well as listing those looking for jobs. The committee recommends that the Empire Builders make the bulletin boards and that business es-

tablishments handle publicity concerning this project.

The laws covering youth employment are unfair and unrealistic. They restrict employment of young people who need jobs, and they prevent employers from using youth at their businesses or on the farms.

## DRUG PROBLEMS

In response to the survey given in the schools, it is recognized that hallucinogenic drugs are used in the county. There is no serious problem yet. The committee recommends drug education beginning with grade school students and continuing through the school system. Also, parents are urged to avail themselves of drug education.

This committee determined that there is an alcohol problem in the county and recommends more law enforcement and stricter enforcement toward the adult suppliers of alcohol to youth.

Students have conveyed to us that parental example is the most effective means of setting a child's standards.

## Senior Adults

National interest in senescence and gerontology really awakened in 1940, when several careful programs were greatly expanded and when the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare began to promote special research and to offer federal help to senior citizens. An awakened social consciousness, a new national awareness of the needs of various social segments, brought expansive concern for senior citizens into many communities, which is witnessed by articles on their needs in magazines and newspapers. The O.E.O. (Office of Economic Opportunity) has done a great deal through its C.A.P. (Community Action Program) to help at the neighborhood level. Churches, private foundations, and concerned individuals offer support in this growing area of real social need.

## COUNTY SITUATION

The just-released 1970 census shows an all-over drop of 8.3 percent in county's population (4,871 in 1960 to 4,465 in 1970), but the number of senior citizens in the county is increasing.

A booklet published in 1969 by the State of Oregon's Employment Division on Morrow County gives more specific figures (p. 12), showing that in 1960 there were 408 persons between 55 and 64, and 518 over 65, for a total of 926 senior adults. In 1969 there were 504 persons between 55 and 64, and 526 of 65 and over, for a total of 1,030 senior adults. That booklet gives the 1969 population as 4,395, making the 55 and over population close to one-fourth of the total population, a very significant fraction (just about equal to the population total reported for persons under 16). On page 31, this booklet states that "the high median age (over 43) of the active labor force is caused by the low percentage of the total population in the 18 through 34 year age group."

A resource analysis of Morrow County compiled by the Cooperative Extension Service in January 1967 broke down the 1960 population figures into these senior groups:

55 to 65 - total 408; 65 through 74 - total 349; and 75 years and over - total 169; for a total of 926 senior adults (agreeing with the Employment Division's 1969 report).

Thus, 1969 figures show 518 over 65, but the 1970 census publishes 570 persons over 65 in Morrow County, Oregon.

A sampling made by this subcommittee enumerating needs and plans of citizens over 55 years old found them, in general, quite satisfied with life here. However, several real needs and concerns were brought into focus in the answers to a questionnaire which was circulated in each community. This questionnaire asked persons 55 and over to make comments and to state: (1) their future plans, (2) their physical needs, such as housing, health care, food, clothing, equipment, transportation, (3) their nonphysical needs - contact with a church, occasional recreation and group activity, legal aid, and educational help. Comments on conditions in the county were especially solicited.

Over 300 persons, including some from each area of the county, were questioned, and the results of this questioning showed several specific needs and concerns.

## IMPACT OF CHANGES

Since the 1958 report, *Morrow Today and Tomorrow*, some significant changes have taken place in all lives, particularly in the lives of senior adults to whom change is more noticeable, because they have experienced some "good old days." Here is an example of change in Morrow County: The 1958 report states (p. 9) that the county had "three full time medical physicians which fulfills the minimum standard of medical care for civilian population as set up by the American Medical Society and the U. S. Health Service, and in addition to these, there are an osteopathic physician, chiropractor, two part-time dentists, and an optometrist." On that same page the 1958 report describes the Hospital Auxiliary which was organized "to service the county hospital and the community".

At present, the county has only one full-time medical physician, one osteopathic physician, a dentist, and an optometrist, and no hospital auxiliary. Other long-range concerns which are being pointed out by various divisions of this 1971 report are housing, employment, recreational, and other important aspects of life, which have changed considerably since 1958. The rapid rate of inflation, a major concern for everyone, hurts older people most of all.

## NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The areas which this committee found meriting attention are listed somewhat in order of their greatest pressure; however, the greatest pressure for some persons is not the most significant for others.

### Medical Care

The shortage of physicians, the inadequate staffing of the county hospital, the inflated cost of medical care, awkward transportation situations - these are great concerns. Some older persons plan to leave the county because of this situation. March 1971 headlines in the Heppner and Pendleton newspapers shouted **HOSPITAL COSTS EXCEED REVENUE**. Articles stated that the hospital at Heppner may have to close, that the vital nursing home section is very far in debt. Hospital Administrator Ilene Wyman concludes her statement in the Heppner **GAZETTE TIMES**, March 4, "The Governor's fact finding committee has found that Nursing Homes in the state that are making their way are often giving sub-standard care, and that is something we hope will never be said of our Nursing Home. We hope the state and our county will soon come up with an answer to the problem".

Because medical care is of the greatest concern to most senior adults, problems must be resolved somehow. The state and county may need to provide some funds (perhaps by a per capita tax) so that the hospital will continue to function. It is urgent that another physician be brought to the county, thus permitting surgery at the hospital. Although medical care is a national, even worldwide concern, local drives by the hospital, the county officers, and concerned citizens might bring some help here. Beyond its primary functions, the hospital is a source of employment for many citizens.

### Inflation

Good housing, good nutrition, adequate clothing, transportation, recreation (particularly television) are all costing more than Social Security benefits or many private retirement plans were geared to cover.

"No single class was hurt by net inflation—not farmers, not workers, not profit receivers—save one class alone. It is the elderly, those caught on fixed and inadequate pensions by an unanticipated inflation, who really suffer net inflation", writes Paul K. Samuelson, according to facts reported to him by the National Bureau of Economic Research (*Newsweek Magazine*, February 15, 1971, p. 59). The answers to some of these problems lie in speedy economic recovery; built-in protection for retirees if another period of rapid inflation occurs; special rates for senior citizens (for example, lower television cable costs, reduced monthly cable rates); and federal help with housing. Multiple housing with controlled rent, as well as improved and

expanded trailer parking facilities (especially in the Heppner area) are needed.

Continuation, and perhaps expansion, of the Neighborhood Center is recommended.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Many over 55 would like to earn—to find full or part-time work. Some would like training that would fit them for different work from what they did in their youth.

"U. S. SHIRKS TASK: Job Training for 45's & Over" by Ray Cromicy, a syndicated writer, points out that most of our actual long-term unemployment are older, that many have given up trying to find work. "Current estimate is that between four and five million men and women 55 and older would be interested in working as part-time community service aides". He continues pointing out that almost one out of five men and women over 65 live in poverty. "But there is something barbaric in this half-living, half dying. Here are men and women many of whom want to work, many who have something to contribute, many who have proved their reliability, their integrity and their talents. Most are not asking for charity". (Pendleton East Oregonian, Feb. 11, 1971.)

More understanding and concern regarding this problem are urgent. An expanded adult-education program under federal and state departments (A.B.E., G.E.D., and Vocational Rehabilitation) might well contribute to relief. Possibly a new sheltered workshop, possibly a make-work community aides program would help. A careful plan for spreading information within the county about employment possibilities, about helpful agencies, is needed. Use of a monthly newsletter for senior adults through the Extension Service seems worthwhile.

Tentative employers of senior citizens point out that hiring older persons can bring problems which could be corrected through legislative measures and tax adjustments.

## OTHER CONCERNS

◆ Loneliness and poor nutrition plague many who live alone on meager means. A committee member submitted a suggestion from Corvallis which was reported in the *Corvallis Gazette Times*, November 21, 1971:

"Meals on Wheels" organized by a group of church women through the hospital kitchen brings good nutrition and brief outside visiting to sick, lonely, elderly folks each Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Heppner has a Golden Age Club for those over 55 which might be expanded and better publicized. The Neighborhood Center's Thursday afternoon handcraft parties are joyful to many older women and should be supported and expanded. Citizens need to take books, magazines, and other useful and pleasing articles to the Neighborhood Center.

◆ Lack of transportation causes older citizens to feel desperate about their immobility. In some communities a cooperative station-wagon-type bus driven by volunteers has helped solve the transportation problem. Perhaps such a solution could be worked out in this county - a bus or station wagon which would serve each area at set times each week and offer some employment to several helpful older citizens also.

Some FISH organizations call older citizens regularly to visit a little and check on their general welfare and needs for medicine, groceries, and other supplies and then transport the citizens or the supplies. Perhaps junior service clubs of junior high youngsters could make regular checks on older folks without telephone and report their needs to adult service groups that could get help for them. Volunteers with publicized telephone numbers could help many senior citizens. The ministerial association might support this arrangement.

◆ Poor housing usually becomes the lot of the older citizens. Support in correcting this problem should come from the county, state, and federal governments.

◆ Cultural disadvantages are noted because of the county's isolation, and also because some senior adults are immobile. Although churches, lodges, and granges want to help here, all of these worthwhile groups find there is often a lack of response to their efforts. Possibly better publicity and an offer to help with transportation would help.

◆ Building up the county's recreational possibilities is

a significant need suggested by many — as is industrial and agricultural growth, especially in the Columbia River frontage area. These promotional problems can be helped by constant efforts by all, especially in providing favorable information whenever possible. The county officials and the Port Commission are encouraged to continue their good work.

◆ Deteriorating civic pride and lack of support for local merchants was emphasized. Up until now improving one's home has brought higher taxes; however, the current legislature is considering a tax-deductible home-improvement allowance, which the committee supports. Constant work, stimulated by clubs and local publicity, should help revitalize civic pride.

◆ Quite a few feel that the worst change has been the loss of a "general" store; they feel the J. C. Penny Company store should have stayed in Heppner.

◆ In Heppner "roving" dogs distress older folks who hope the dog population will be curtailed or at least better controlled. The county and police can help here.



Fourth and fifth grade students from Boardman and Irrigon on a conservation tour, an annual event sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Morrow County Extension Service, and the Soil Conservation Service.—SCS photo

# Family Stability Report

In the past 10 years the stability of the family unit in Morrow County has been threatened by many social changes. Some of these changes are an increasing rate of divorce; broadening mental health problems; a growing abuse of drugs; the expansion of juvenile delinquency; and an enlarging crime rate.

In a county with a population of 4,465 in 1970, a breakdown of ages of ages is shown here:

Under age 5.....	325
6-17.....	1242
18-64.....	2328
65 & over.....	570
	<b>4465</b>
Status of age groups:	
Married (14 & over).....	2261
Widowed.....	246
Divorced.....	104
Not married.....	707

## COUNTY PATTERN

It is startling that population figures for children age 0-17 reach almost three-fourths of the total population from age 18-64. It is evident from these population figures that the next 10 years must see an increase in ability to recognize, handle, and assist in the problems in this area.

The pattern in Morrow County family units may consist of two parents and children; one parent and children; combinations of past and present family units, or grandparents and grandchildren. Morrow County, with its population of 4465, must be considered a rural area, and its problems should be approached with this in mind. Because of the potential for permanent population growth in the Columbia River frontage of the county and the influx of seasonal laborers, this projected expansion of family units has been included in this report.

## Recommendations

The committee offers the following suggestions:

Acceptance of the following goals by each member of the family is the key to the stability of the family unit.

◆ Pride in one's family: - the full employment of the father if physically possible; acceptance by the community; family contributions to society (state, national, and international); financial responsibility to the family and to the community; recreation which involves all members of the family; family sharing of beauty in the home and its surroundings; pride in appearance of self and other members of the family.

◆ Seeing the value of the churches and synagogues: recognition of a Supreme Being outside the family, in-

terest within the family, and the relationships it encompasses; the church acting and interacting in all community structures to aid in direction and support of human dignity and worth.

◆ Acceptance of one another in love: knowing love is given and received; having a sense of belonging.

◆ Upholding discipline: training in values, both moral and ethical; accepting discipline from parents and teachers; respecting the laws of the land.

◆ Understanding roles of father and mother: sharing of authority by both parents; most decisions of authority by either parent upheld by the other (not argued before the child); mothers working outside the home when necessary or desirable if circumstances are such that finances or her fulfillment as a person is needed.

◆ Communications: a two-way street of listening and hearing; use of sensitivity and sensibility; verbal and nonverbal communications; the role of school stressed.

◆ Individual growth and esteem: the right of a part in decision making; the right of individuality for both parent and child; experiencing a sense of achievement for completing goals; the opportunity to acquire skills in a specific trade or art; improvement of budget habits, extending education through Extension and community college short courses.

◆ Maintaining one's physical health: more education to individuals on the awareness of communicable and terminal diseases.

◆ Conserving mental health: private counseling service for adult and youth through professional counselor, church and school; physical health counseling on marriage and sex through schools, churches, and adult classes; family-life programs in the schools, grades accept responsibilities; acquisition of understandings of being human beings that understand total sexuality rather than just the biological process.

◆ Marriage and divorce: uniform marriage and divorce laws throughout the 50 states of the United States; knowledge of a marriage contract and what it means to be a consenting party; premarital counseling by church, civic, or private agencies; legal judgements designed to aid both parties of a dissolving marriage so that blame is not fixed upon any one person.

The committee recommends that a regional center be set up in Morrow County and surrounding area of three or four counties for family counseling, mental health counseling, and child guidance.

Sources for statistics and assistance were obtained from the census bureau, the state and county records, the Extension Service reports, and by observations of the committee members in regard to family stability conditions throughout the different areas of the county.

# Consumer Competence Report

The main objective of the committee on consumer competence was to determine how much forethought and good judgement the people of the county use in their consumer buying. For an indication of buying habits, a survey, made up by Oregon State University, was distributed to 200 people of the county. The largest percentage of the families said they had two wage earners in the family and were in the 30-40 age group.

An effort was made to include a cross-section of the population such as the young marrieds, the middle aged, senior citizens, single persons, high-school students, all from high, middle-and low-income families. This committee endeavored to keep these categories in fairly the same ratio as they occur in the population. Another page was added to the survey to obtain an idea of the percentage of people who buy consumer products out of the county. A farm survey was taken independently of this committee, and its results will be discussed in this report.

## CLOTHING

It is the 30-40 age group with the \$6,000-\$15,000 incomes that buy the greatest amount of clothing, and they are the ones who most often buy clothing on sale. The young and old and very low-or very high-income families, do not place as much importance on sales.

Fault in construction was the most often expressed complaint, with quality of fabric next in line. Sizing and fabric fault ran a close third and fourth. Most people said they returned the article to the store and complained when they found something amiss. It was the 30-40 age group with middle income that found the most fault and complained the loudest. This is to be expected, as this is the group with the largest families of growing children.

## PURCHASING PRACTICES

*Unethical sales.* Magazine salesmen were most often mentioned in this category. More people did not buy from door-to-door salesmen than did. No one of high income said he had bought anything from these sales persons. There were no reports of bad experiences with local door-to-door salesmen.

*Major purchases.* Consumer reports and consumer rating organizations seemed to influence people's buying habits the most. Friends and relatives rated next in importance; salesmen were also important. Mass media advertisements, such as T.V., radio, and newspapers were rated as relatively uninfluential.

*Credit buying.* Gasoline credit buying was the leading credit source used. Revolving charge accounts, bank loans, and 30-90 day charge accounts were the next mentioned. Only in the 30-40 age group were there any significant number at all using finance company loans. Credit union loans, home mortgages, and bank credit cards were not used in any significant numbers. It was the middle-income 30-40 age group that used the most credit.

*Purchases anticipated.* People were found to be fairly conservative in their wants. New draperies and furniture were the most often mentioned. Twenty-nine people anticipated buying new cars. Carpeting was desired the most by the 30-40 age group.

Most respondents always or usually compared prices, an encouraging statistic.

## HOMES

An interesting fact developed in this category: of the 48 families planning on building a new home, the largest number were 60 years of age or over.

Only a very few of those who own or are buying a home plan to move in the next two years.

Painting the inside of the home was the major expenditure most often mentioned. Some mentioned outside painting and landscaping. Not many were considering any major expenditures.

## FOOD

*Meal planning.* Few indicated they always plan meals before going grocery shopping; the group answering "usually" or "occasionally" was the largest. A few said they never plan ahead. Again, it was the 30-40 group with the middle incomes that plans the most. The age groups and income groups were about evenly divided in stating they occasionally plan meals while shopping.

*Reading labels.* The survey questioned whether consumers read labels before buying products, and it was encouraging that almost no one stated he never read labels. "Usually" was the most checked answer, with "always" and occasionally" about equal.

*Cost comparisons.* The most encouraging and probably predictable of the questions were the ones about cash comparison. The biggest percentage of respondents indicated that they always compare prices, with "usually," "occasionally," and "never," in that order. The same ratio held true for the question "Do you read newspaper ads before shopping." An interesting fact.

When asked if people shopped on the days "specials" were offered, the largest percentage who answered yes were in the 30-40 age group. The majority of the group answering no were usually in the 60 and over age group.

## IN-COUNTY AND OUT-OF-COUNTY BUYING

Part of the survey contained questions concerning in-county and out-of-county buying. The purpose was to determine whether most people were buying close to home in Morrow County or if they were driving to neighboring counties to shop.

The result showed that people buy clothing, food, furniture, auto equipment, appliances, farm equipment, and farm supplies out of county, in that order. Clothing

and food were the items most purchased in another county. The reasons most people gave for shopping out of county were better selection and cost. Selection seemed to be slightly more important than cost.

Since Morrow County makes use of many vehicles, auto insurance buying led life, household, and liability protection. Farmers, of course, carry crop and farm equipment insurance. Whether people used an in-county or out-of-county agent or both seemed about evenly split.

The average number of times people eat out is about once a month. It seems that people in the Boardman area eat at restaurants or drive-ins somewhat oftener.

The committee makes the following suggestions formed by the findings of this survey: first of all, stores are needed that offer a better selection of clothing and food at lower cost. The loss of the J. C. Penney store left a void which has yet to be filled by a similar type of store. Lack of competition seems to be a factor in the pricing of necessities.

A more modern, relaxing place to eat, at least in the Heppner-Lexington area, is desirable.

## Recommendations

More information and instruction should be made available about dealing with unethical sales people, both door-to-door and company salesmen. The Extension Service, Welfare, the Neighborhood Center (OEO), and county schools could all cooperate in educating the public. Also, stricter county laws might be effective.

◆ Information should be made accessible by the Extension Service to various age groups on how to choose the most practical house to build or buy. Such information should be valuable not only for the growing family, but also for older couples who want to build their dream house and need to fit their present needs with the "dream."

◆ More information about credit buying should be obtainable. The high school would be an effective place for this education, because high-school youth are in the age group that will soon be the largest credit buyers.

◆ Special home improvement loans might be made easily obtainable. The committee believes that such an opportunity would give civic pride a boost. Our legislators are urged to work for tax reform so that citizens are not penalized for home improvement.

◆ Food-buying habits seem reasonable. The Extension Service, Welfare, the Neighborhood Center, and the schools should not decrease their efforts to educate the public more fully on practical food-buying practices. Again, our legislators are urged to work for better labeling laws.

## FARM SURVEY

Since the economy of the county is based mainly on raw farm produce, the buying habits of the farmers should be reflected. Therefore, a spot survey of farmers was made.

The results revealed the following facts:

◆ Combines and tractors were the two pieces of equipment purchased most during the last five years. Most of the combines were purchased locally, but the tractors purchased were split about half-and-half locally and out of the county.

◆ Nearly all farmers were dissatisfied with their farm equipment, mostly because of high cost. Other reasons given in the order of their prominence were poor design, poor service, construction, poor workmanship, and cost of repair parts. When asked what equipment they intended to purchase in the next three years, the reply was "none" for most of the farmers.

◆ Additional machinery and equipment farmers would purchase if they were receiving a fair return of their labor and investments showed new trucks by a large margin, then combines, pick-ups, grain drills, crawler tractors, and wheel tractors, in that order.

◆ Various ways of acquiring equipment were considered, and it was found that most farmers would probably own their equipment in the future. However, many indicated that they might consider leasing or sharing equipment and having custom work done.

## Recommendations

◆ Machine companies should be informed of changes needed in the construction of equipment, and farmers should be contacted by company representatives to determine these changes.

◆ The public should be made more aware of the cost of the production of raw materials and the wide variance between market prices and production costs.

# Crop Production and Marketing Report

Crop production and marketing changed during the interval from the last planning conference of February, 1958, to February, 1971. It appears that even greater changes are coming to Morrow County in the next 10 years. Our private enterprise system has been changing from one of many small businesses to one of very few, very large businesses. The committee's projection for farm crops in Morrow County for the next 10 years must consider these overall changes.

## ECONOMICS

From the time of the last report in 1958 there have been several economic studies of actual farm-production costs, which took into account managerial costs and interest on investment expenses. These studies have indicated that there is a wide variance in out-of-pocket costs from farm to farm, with the following factors causing wide cost differences: (1) favorable lease contracts vs. unfavorable lease contracts, (2) ownership of land and equipment vs. low equity purchase agreements, (3) poor land vs. good land, (4) economic size of operation vs. uneconomic, etc. However, after these variables were considered, the inference could only be that the overall economic condition of American and Morrow County agriculture is deteriorating and is of much greater concern than it was in 1958, even though the trend was evident then.

During this time producers of raw materials - wheat, barley, hay, beans, potatoes etc. - have been unable to put a price on their products in relation to the increased costs of production brought about by the inflationary climate in the United States.

It must be stressed that production has been more than adequate, and because of this abundance, the users of our crops have not had to compete to obtain an adequate supply. Such a situation led to low farm prices that have no relation to the cost of production. Farmers have not put a price on their product and have attempted to stay in business by becoming bigger or more efficient. This development has led to debt expansion, consolidation, integration, and the trend toward large corporate farms.

Farm organizations differ in what should be done but for the most part are concerned about maintaining farms as small-business enterprises. The producers of crops in Morrow County have these major farm organizations to work through - the granges, the Farm Bureau, the Farmers Union, the National Farmers Organization, and the various commodity groups, such as the Wheat League and the Cattlemen's Association.

Price is the key. To improve price, the farmers must be organized in order to deal with the organized groups with which they are doing business. During the interval of 1958 to 1971, NFO has been growing and at this time offers a complete marketing procedure in order that farmers may help themselves to correct this economic im-

balance. Is this the tool we need to correct this economic imbalance - the tool needed the last 13 years? This committee feels that NFO marketing will be a major factor in farm-product pricing in the next 10 years.

## PRODUCTION

Production will also change. There will be more utilization of crops through livestock, more irrigated crops, and renewed emphasis on soil conservation (the economy permitting). Zoning, tax structure, and political participation are all part of pricing, marketing, and the general well-being of the crop producer. It is important to contribute in all these areas.

### Conservation

Our shallow soils on top of bedrock are not replaceable, and it is therefore essential that known conservation practices be implemented as far as sound economics will allow. This responsibility should be shared by all citizens of the United States. Control of the environment, of pollution, etc., will be of major consequence in the next 10 years. This committee feels that farmers, through their organizations, should participate in the writing of the laws that will affect them, rather than having to oppose suggestions others will be making.

### Dryland Crops

Inasmuch as grass is marginally profitable and since without exception Morrow County producers lose crop history when planting grass while attempting to participate in farm programs, we recommend that all those who plan to plant grass consider carefully the economic alternatives. The landowners need public assistance to share the cost of seeding grass and protecting the soil for future generations.

We need a feed-grain type wheat along with continued work on variety improvement. Our agricultural research services are to be commended for their existing programs, which should be strengthened. Wheat will continue to be a major crop in the county and will undoubtedly continue to be difficult to market at profitable prices. Barley, along with other feed grains, will continue to be needed as more livestock are fed on the site of grain production.

### Irrigated Crops

Large areas of land will come under irrigation for the first time in Morrow County in the near future, and major crops foreseeable are irrigated alfalfa, potatoes, dry beans, irrigated pasture, grass seed, and many others as markets are developed. Since there will be great change in the north end of the county, the most beneficial adjustment to this changing pattern is of concern to those presently engaged in agriculture.



## Wintering Livestock

Irrigated pasture acreage will increase, thereby increasing the need for wintering livestock. Stubble in the south end could be further utilized to winter these livestock. More cattle can be fed on the grain produced in this area.

## Chemicals and Fertilizers

With so much publicity about pollution, chemicals, and other dangers, there are going to be changes in the availability of chemicals. For instance, some of the best chemicals for cheatgrass control are in danger of being withdrawn. One of the easiest ways chemicals get in the water is to be carried by soil particles that have eroded. The use of fertilizer and chemicals will continue for the most economical production possible.

## FARM PROGRAMS

It is the consensus of the committee that farm programs are being phased out, particularly with regard to the financial assistance available from the public treasury. There are many good parts of the farm program that should be maintained, such as loans to erect grain storage bins, the loan program, the conservation program, some kind of production control, etc. Foreign trade becomes an ever-increasing problem as the things we buy keep inflating. The committee feels that present government policies of using our products are being sold too cheaply.

Also, legislation such as the Cooper-Volsted Act can be used more beneficially to aid farmers in pricing their own products; they must be prepared to spend more time in this area as federal assistance is withdrawn. Farmers should be encouraged to spend more time in marketing the crop they spend so much time in producing and to consider this time as being a part of full-time employment.

The committee offers these further observations:

The ASCS committee system is not used to the best advantage: farmers are encouraged to participate in committee meetings more fully.

Farm workers should organize; it would help farmers if they would assist in promoting legislation that would be fair and realistic for both parties.

Loss of support from the federal government through the consolidation of various governmental departments is a matter of very real concern.

## TYPE OF FARMING UNIT

The kind of economic unit which Morrow County will have 10 years from now is of primary importance. Existing sound productive units should be supported through higher farm prices.

Long-term contracts or lease arrangements must be fair to the operator and return him a decent wage and allow him current interest on his investment and income for his managerial time.

Some ideas for better use of capital land and labor resource: (1) Stretch out the work season by taking advantage of elevation differences; (2) consolidate equipment use from one end of county to the other; (3) form cooperative units owned by groups of Morrow County residents in order to participate in the irrigation development of the north end of the county; and (4) develop more readily available qualified labor.

The biggest development is going to be in the north end of the county, possibly with nuclear reactors to pump warm water onto the land along with water pumped from the Columbia River and further development of deep wells. It appears that large operators are interested in developing the land. There is great concern over what kind of operations will be proposed. It would be best for the county if units could be developed to utilize efficient types of small-business specialties or leased out in family-size units rather than becoming the property of a few large corporations.

# Forestry Report

Resources available from both private and public forest lands in Morrow County include timber, forage, water for livestock and domestic use, wildlife, and recreation. These lands comprise approximately 220,000 acres.

Management practices that integrate protection of the environment and maximum utilization of available resources appear to be the key to the future. Although timber and forage produce the most dollars and sustained benefit to the people of the county, environmental quality is, and will continue to be, of primary importance. Local industry is becoming more diversified and is continuing to develop better lumber- and plywood-producing installations that will improve economic stability and bring more dollars into the community. At the same time, more forest-land owners are becoming aware of the need for maintaining ecological balance and improvement of the environment.

## Recommendations

- ◆ Forest practices during the coming decade should include: (1) better protection of stream courses from the standpoint of road locations; (2) closure or reconstruction of existing roads substandard due to location, grade, alignment, or lack of proper surfacing; and (3) modification of logging methods and techniques to protect watershed values, enhance the environment, minimize impact on aesthetic quality, and protect anadromous fish and wildlife habitat.
- ◆ Timberland owners should continue to utilize resources, funds, and technical assistance available from public agencies in the establishment of tree farms and management of their property, including reforestation of poorly stocked lands and thinning of stagnated stands in order to increase growth and maximize production from available growing sites.
- ◆ Intensive transportation planning is required to insure proper location of primary forest-access roads commensurate with all forest uses.
- ◆ Continued fire protection is needed, in addition to more complete disposal of logging debris and thinning slash.
- ◆ The present level of low-quality dead timber salvage should be maintained, and material available in commercial thinnings and marginal species, such as lodgepole pine, should be inventoried and utilized.
- ◆ Meaningful information and education programs, including forest field days, conservation tours, public presentation and discussion of resource plans, and use of the local news media should be encouraged.
- ◆ Job opportunities should be provided for local citizens participating in various Department of Labor and Department of Health, Education and Welfare manpower programs in forest-related work such as thinning, reforestation, erosion control, and stream rehabilitation projects.

# Water Resources Report

## SOURCES OF WATER

Water is a major resource of Morrow County and is derived from three main sources: natural streamflow, ground water, and the Columbia River. Development of this resource has been relatively small in proportion to the potential. The water resource committee considered each of these sources and their possible development.

### Natural Streamflow

The streams of the county originate in the Blue Mountains, and the flow comes from winter snowpack. There are many acres of irrigated land along these streams; however, during the peak of the irrigation season (summer months) the streams go dry. Additional land adjacent to the streams could be irrigated, if water were available, by pumping through sprinkler systems.

Flooding is nearly an annual problem with fast snow-melt and flash-type storms. Heppner, Ione, and a number of the farmsteads are located along these drainages, and considerable damage from these high runoffs results.

The Columbia Basin is one of the highest silt-producing areas of the state. The silt that comes from the land eventually ends up in the Columbia River and creates problems, all downstream to the ocean. Any reservoir construction must allow for high sediment yield.

There is no natural body of water with irrigation or recreational potential within the confines of Morrow County except the Columbia River on the northern boundary. The development of several of these impoundments would create an immediate favorable economic impact upon the existing business communities.

### Ground Water

A number of wells have been drilled in the past few years, some successful and some not. Most of the wells along the streams are relatively small in size and yield only a few hundred gallons per minute. Larger wells of 2,000 to 3,000 gallons per minute have been located in the northern part of the county.

The water level in some of the wells is dropping and is not coming back to the same height by the next irrigation season.

Ground water recharge with water from the Columbia River should be considered, and continued study of the water table of the county should be made. If necessary, restrictions must be placed on the number of new wells.

### The Columbia River

The Columbia River, the largest water resource of the county, flows the length of the northern boundary. Adjacent to the river is the largest block of prime irrigable land in Oregon, and development is inevitable. There are several project plans being prepared for irrigation of this land.

Presently, planning and promotion is being done by

groups such as local Soil and Water Conservation districts, the Morrow County Court, the Morrow County Planning Commission, and the Port of Morrow, the last having statutory capability to bond and build an irrigation grid with industrial waste water. The recently organized Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D has helped unite these aforementioned groups as well as coordinate government agency assistance.

It may become necessary to secure the services of a special project manager to coordinate and expedite these developments.

Financing an irrigation project using coolant water could come either from revenue bonds sold by the Port of Morrow or from direct utility financing, or a combination of both.

Corporate financing is needed and has a place because of the required large amounts of long-term capital. Where corporations develop and control irrigation tracts, the committee encourages subleasing and separate agreements with resident tenants. By utilizing combinations of financing available to farmers, private irrigation districts can be formed. Groups of farmers should pursue these possibilities.

The Bureau of Reclamation has the tools to develop these lands fully and all groups should work closely with the bureau to bring about full irrigation and production potential.

## RECREATION

Morrow County towns have been declining in the past few years because of their dependence upon agriculture as the main industry. Trends toward more mechanization and larger farm units have had a damaging effect upon the small towns of the county. A series of small impoundments in this area could precipitate immediate benefits from tourists, fishermen, campers, picnickers, and recreationists. Siting of several impoundments by both private and public groups or combinations of both should be encouraged and implemented.

### Rhea Creek

Approximately 1,700 acres of currently irrigated land along Rhea Creek needs supplemental water, and an additional 900 acres above the creek could be irrigated. Flooding is also a problem along the creek.

The feasibility report ought to be completed during 1971, and from this report the Rhea Creek landowners can form an irrigation district and complete a project plan.

### Rock Creek

The project plan for Rock Creek, which includes flood control and irrigation features, has been prepared.

The committee recommends that funds, both private and public, be made available to develop this project and build the Ghost Camp reservoir.

## **Willow Creek**

The Willow Creek dam above Heppner, planned for flood control, recreation, and supplemental irrigation, has been authorized for construction for many years. An irrigation district has been formed by the landowners.

The committee recommends the funding and construction of this project. The Willow Creek Water Improvement District must work closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and other agencies to establish the feasibility for irrigation.

## **Watersheds**

Because watersheds above proposed reservoirs are high silt producers, reservoir areas must be designed to allow for this silt.

An increase in the application of silt-reducing practices—diversions, strip cropping, grass seeding, grassed waterways, etc.—is recommended.

Flooding of Heppner and Lone is a frequent problem caused by flash storms in the Shobe and Reitmann canyon watersheds. These have been entered as project measures in the Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D.

The landowners and cities involved should form the legal entities necessary for completing the improvements to solve the flooding problems.

## **NORTH MORROW COUNTY IRRIGATION**

Getting Columbia River water to available land will provide the occupational opportunities necessary for keeping young people in the county and perhaps prevent them from moving to large population areas. The population of Morrow County has been declining for the past 10 years, especially in the younger age groups.

A broadened economic base and more diversification are needed.

The planning committee strongly advocates the need for large irrigation developments and proposes that each alternative be fully and fairly assessed. The committee

also commends and encourages the Port of Morrow efforts to attract nuclear sitings to this area, with multi-purpose developments (power-industry-irrigation) being emphasized. Electric power utilities favor using water impoundments to cool generator reactors and have also shown interest in irrigation.

More local people will need to take part not only in the planning but in the actual implementation. Strong and active area development committees will play the most important role in starting planning and development of full potential of water resources.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND POLLUTION**

Morrow County presently has a relatively clean, nonpolluted environment. The county does not presently have a pollution problem or a major polluting industry. How can we keep the area in a pollution-free status and thus maintain it as a good place to live?

This planning committee feels that active land-use planning should be given the support of all citizens of the county. A zoning ordinance should be given serious consideration and adopted. Through land-use planning and zoning, presently available and water and land resources to be developed in the future, can be protected for the highest and best use.

## **WIND EROSION CONTROL**

Newly reclaimed lands in north Morrow County for irrigation use have high wind erosion hazards. Row cropping presents added problems.

Proven conservation and management techniques must be publicized regularly.

Wind control districts should be formed for the entire area, such as provided by ORS 568.810 to 568.890.

Wind erosion inspectors should be appointed by the district to help educate new land tenants, surveillance, and, if necessary, implement means to prevent or stop blows.

# Livestock Production and Marketing Report

## BEEF CATTLE

The beef cattle industry of Morrow County contributed \$14,831,000 to the total of \$55,853,390 for all agriculture income to the county in the past five-year period. This income to the area ranchers in turn supported many local businesses and a sizable labor force.

## PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*Weeds.* The need for continued awareness of our rangeland weed problems cannot be stressed too strongly. Branching knapweed and Medusahead rye are our major weed threats at this time. It is urged that the R.E.A.P. weed control program be continued. Because the best control available is a biological control, the committee urges research in this area.

*Livestock Theft.* An all-out effort should be made by county livestock growers to implement the passage of a change-of-ownership brand inspection law for the purpose of better theft prevention.

The encouragement of better policing of rangelands is recommended, as well as better identification of cattle through the use of ear tags with the owner's name.

*Research.* This committee requests more research into the utilization of wheat straw as a cattle feed and also on grasses and the utilization of irrigated pastures in this area.

*Disease.* This committee suggests that the livestock industry support the veterinary isolation facility to be located at OSU. Also, more short courses should be conducted for livestockmen of the areas on parasites, diseases, and nutrition.

*Transportation.* Since Morrow County is without a railroad for livestock shipping and there is no livestock trucker located in this county, this committee recommends that a livestock trucking firm be encouraged to locate a base of operation in Morrow County.

*Production Testing.* Livestock growers in the county would benefit by the adoption of the proved practice of production testing of cattle for the purpose of upgrading the cow herds of the area.

*Pest Control.* It is urged that strong support by local ranchers of the predator-control program be continued in order to keep range pests in proper balance for a profitable industry.

*Labor.* As the need for skilled farm and agribusiness labor increases at a fast pace, education of the advantages and opportunities of agriculture employment should be strongly encouraged by the cattle industry.

## FEEDS AND FENCING

Because Morrow County has long been a producer of feeder livestock, there is a local demand for feeds. It

would be more reasonable and economical for these feeds to remain in the county rather than being shipped out to other consumers.

Local consumption will be even greater in the future, particularly as north Morrow County grows into a greater production area. This will create an overabundance of feed for animals, thus making it easier for the rancher to maintain larger quantities of feeder animals.

The future will also bring more and more irrigation systems into the north end, enabling the farmer to grow larger and more varied crops. At the same time, this growth is going to create a larger excess of crops, making it possible for the rancher to winter more livestock.

Long-range plans are underway for a pellet machine to be installed in the field for farm use. This will eliminate the cost of handling hay from field to stacking yard.

An educational program on how to utilize local feed in small feedlots, by the Extension Service, is suggested.

With the future bringing more and easier techniques for growing larger quantities and better qualities of feeds, it is recommended that the farmer keep his feeder livestock or make a future investment or sell his excess crops to a local feeder.



A part of the audience listens intently to a discussion on livestock theft and brand regulations at a Morrow County Livestock Growers meeting. Left to right, Eddie Brosnan, Merlin Hughes, Ray French and Gerald Swaggart.

## DAIRY

Currently the dairy industry in Morrow County consists of an average herd size of 75 cows, producing 14,000 pounds of milk and 500 pounds of butterfat. Artificial breeding of milk cows is 100 percent and nearly so on all replacement heifers. All dairies here are feeding self-grown forage with the purchase of 50 percent roughage and 100 percent of concentrates. Dairies are two-men operations with very little hourly labor. Only one dairy has one full-time hired man. Man hours of labor are

approximately 75 to 80 hours per week, per man. Farms consist of 100 to 200 acres of roughage and pasture. All acres are irrigated, either by sprinkler or by flood, and are fertilized with both manure and commercial fertilizer. Herd care, vaccination, etc., are handled mostly by the dairyman. Milk fever and severe health cases are handled by the local veterinarian.

The problem and concern of the dairy subcommittee is one first and foremost of management, encompassing related problems.

## DAIRY PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Problems

Management .....

Milk production .....

Forage production .....

Herd health .....

Labor .....

Machinery .....

Buildings, etc. ....

### Recommendations

Adapting, expanding, making use of current specialized magazine articles in dairy publications, etc.  
Additional education, classes, and courses.

Upgrading, breeding, and feeding.  
Milk production records.

Making use of soil & tissue testing facilities.  
Fertilization.  
Rotation.

The use of artificial insemination for improved genetic structure.  
Specialized Extension education classes.  
New medicine and techniques.

Modern mechanizing & design (toward labor saving).  
Use of technically improved machinery.

Specifically designed.  
Free from overseeing  
Reliable.

Useful, specialized design, labor saving.  
Efficient; moderate cost.

## SHEEP

Sheep numbers have declined since the early 1940's to the present level of approximately 14,000 ewes. Labor concerns and economics will probably see future growth (in numbers) take place in farm flocks and in irrigated pastures rather than in range operations. These small numbers of sheep handled create some special concerns of low volume, such as marketing and availability of shearers. There are active state and national sheep organizations which work toward improvement of the sheep industry and deserve the support of all sheep producers.

### Problems

The major problems of the sheep industry are predators, mainly coyotes and dogs; parasites, ticks, lung-worms, and liver flukes; diseases such as footrot, white muscle, and enterotoxemia; a shortage of shearers; and a low lambing percentage.

### Recommendations

With irrigation development, there should be a great potential for lamb pasture on crop aftermath. Smaller irrigated pastures lend themselves to growth of family-sized sheep operations under intensified management.

Controlled estrus leading to three crops of lambs in two years is now practical. Producers need to apply proper nutrition just prior to and during the breeding season to assure a higher percentage of lambs whether on an accelerated lambing program or not.

This committee recommends that Oregon State University instigate research in the Columbia Basin for sheep on irrigated pasture management and on limiting intake of pelleted feeds during confinement.

The continuance of the predator control program conducted by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife should be supported.

## PUBLIC LANDS

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service controls approximately 136,922 acres in Morrow County. Grazing is permitted on approximately 133,000 acres, providing about 10,532 animal months of feed per year for domestic animals and an additional 2,000 animal months of summer feed for big game.

The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, controls 6,480 acres of land in Morrow County. The United States Navy Department controls some 47,000 acres of land in Morrow County. Graz-

ing is allowed on 14,000 acres in one block and 8,000 acres in another, which provides some 1,200 AUM's per year.

Other publicly owned lands within the county are:

Army Ordnance Depot .....	9,085 acres
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife .....	5,827 acres
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation .....	770 acres

The above lands provide feed and habitat for wildlife but are not used for domestic livestock.

A private corporation that provides grazing on a large-scale rental basis is the Kinzua Corporation with 53,000 acres in Morrow County, providing approximately 4,079 AUM's of feed for domestic stock and quality feed and cover for wildlife.

The advent of extensive irrigation projects in the arid rangelands of northern Morrow County may increase the carrying capacity of these ranges manyfold in the future.

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